



A Letter from the Abbey

Cistercian Abbey • Our Lady of Dallas

Briefly

Br. Ignatius' art wins recognition

The Park Cities Presbyterian Church Arts Festival awarded Br. Ignatius Peacher with a blue ribbon in November for his pencil drawing, "Mary and Joseph" (2003).

The theme of this year's festival was "Manger, Magi and Majesty."

The drawing, which sold at the festival, can be found on page 2.

His "Angel with Lute" (2000) is featured at right.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring ordination

Fr. Ignatius Peacher's Ordination

Friday, March 25, 10:30 am
Abbey Church

First Mass of Fr. Ignatius Peacher

Sunday, March 27, 9:00 am
Abbey Church

August ordinations

Ordinations of Priests and Deacons

Sunday, August 14, 10:30 am
Abbey Church

First Mass of Fr. Thomas Esposito

Monday, August 15, 10:30 am
Abbey Church

First Mass of Fr. Ambrose Strong

Saturday, August 20, 10:30 am
Holy Family Parish Church, Ft. Worth.

Monastic vows

Solemn & Renewal of Vows

July 3, 2010, 10:30 am
Abbey Church

Golden Jubilees

Fr. Julius' 50th Anniversary

Sunday, June 5, 10:30 am
(Reunions Weekend) at the Abbey Church

Fr. Abbot's 50th Anniversary

Sunday, October 9, 2011 (Feast of St. Denis)
10:30 am, Abbey Church



"Angel with Lute" (2000) by Br. Ignatius Peacher.

This year's Advent is long on meaning

~ By Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy ~

This year's advent is one of the longest possible, because Christmas falls on a Saturday. For those who enjoy the daily liturgy of the Church this means they can mediate or chant through all available texts and songs of the season. But there is more.

This Advent prompts us to recognize how the full cycle of four weeks form a miniature image of an ongoing program to make the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the poor know the kingdom.

Local beggars asking for help to overcome their handicaps merge with the poverty of Bethlehem where the fullness of divinity dwells with the Virgin Mother's fullness of grace, the shepherds' fully carefree Christmas cheer and the three wise men's full generosity giving away their homage (gold), adoration (incense) and readiness for sacrifice and suffering (myrrh).

This longest advent produced for you, Friends of our Abbey, this shortest of Christmas Messages: Just a general heartfelt Alleluia.



Cistercian Abbey Our Lady of Dallas
3550 Cistercian Road
Irving, Texas 75039

Photo by Jim Reisch

Look for a new full-sized edition of the Abbey newsletter in the spring.

Abbey Church Services

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24
 11:30 pm, Office of Readings, Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, December 25
 9 am, concelebrated High Mass

On New Year's Eve, December 31
 9 pm –12 midnight, Eucharistic Adoration (benediction)

STANDARD SCHEDULE

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	6 am
Evening Prayer	6 pm
Daily Mass (Mon - Sat.)	6:30 am
Mass on Sunday	9 am
First Friday Mass	7:30 pm

The Collegium Cantorum of the University of Dallas will join us for Mass on the First Friday of every month during the school year.

Vocations Retreat

If you feel you may be called to the priestly or monastic way of life, please consider contacting us about our annual "Vocation Retreat" at the abbey on Dec. 29.

It concludes with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction as the New Year begins.

For more information contact
 Fr. Paul at: fr-paul@cistercian.org

CHRISTMAS MEDITATIONS

The gift of the Magi

By Br. Stephen Gregg

We all know the awkwardness of gifts: is ours too nice, too cheap, too irrelevant, too practical?

The Magi too felt awkward bringing gold, incense, and myrrh into the stall of Bethlehem. But how many of their expectations had been met along the road?

Arriving in the palace of Herod, they ended up around the manger. Coming by one route, they left by another.

But they found the sense: undeterred, they "opened their treasures" and worshiped him. Gold for a king, incense for God, myrrh for him who came to die?

The Magi at least realized that the meaning of their gifts had been shifted by this Child. They had a long walk afterward, and time to talk about the silence of the King who had brought them there.

But we do not have to leave Bethlehem. We know why it was splendid gold, rising incense, pungent myrrh: we know the God whose coos kindle love to change our gifts.



Br. Ignatius Peacher's "Mary and Joseph" (2003) won a blue ribbon and sold at the PCPC Arts Festival.

The gift of the Gospels

By Br. Thomas Esposito

We don't usually think of the Gospels as Christmas gifts, but they surely are. In fact, we should regard them as the primary reason why we celebrate Christmas today. By writing down the deeds and words of Jesus as the early Church remembered them, the four Evangelists made the life of Jesus accessible to us today. The Gospels create a time-transcending link between Jesus of Nazareth and the Cistercians of Dallas, or any Christians, living today. In Luke 2:11, we read the words of the angel to the shepherds: "For *today* in the city of David, a savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord." The "today" for the shepherds was 2,000 years ago for us. So why do we still read Luke's Gospel? To allow Christ to be born in us, in order that we may be His evangelists to those we meet, in our *today*.